

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

The Status of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for organizing program guide data for use by an electronic program guide application, comprising:

a set top box, including;

a physical memory;

a mass storage device; and

a processor operatively connected to ~~said the~~ physical memory and ~~said the~~ mass storage device for implementing ~~said the~~ electronic program guide application,

wherein ~~said the~~ physical memory and ~~said the~~ mass storage device are configured to store ~~said the~~ program guide data,

wherein ~~said the~~ processor is configured to control ~~controls~~ storage and manipulation of ~~said the~~ program guide data between ~~said the~~ physical memory and ~~said the~~ mass storage device,

wherein the processor is configured to receive the program guide data received from a communications channel,

wherein the processor is configured to initiate at least one process to directs direct that the program guide data be temporally sorted and stored by comparison of a current time to a time associated with the program guide data, into program guide data that is most likely to be immediately accessed ~~for an~~ by the electronic program guide application, and program guide data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future, ~~said the~~ program guide data that is most likely to be immediately accessed being stored in ~~said the~~ physical memory, ~~said the~~ program guide data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future being stored in ~~said the~~ mass storage device, and

wherein the electronic program guide application is configured to cause the processor to suspend operation of the at least one process when the electronic program guide application accesses the program guide data stored in the physical memory.

~~wherein the processor controls storage and manipulation of said data so that necessary or relevant parts of said data may be accessed as the processor detects a user event likely to result in a cache miss, or when cache miss is not predicted.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said the processor is configured to direct the directs at least one process to add the program guide data from the mass storage device to said the physical memory so as to maintain a sufficient amount of the program guide data to be accessed for the electronic program guide application.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein said the processor is configured to direct a second ~~directs another~~ process to remove the program guide data from said the mass storage device and said the physical memory so as to ensure that the program guide data used by said the application can be accessed from said the physical memory without delay.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said the program guide data contained within the physical memory is configured to be accessed ~~subject to accesses~~ by the processor ~~to the data contained therein~~ to run said the electronic program guide application without having to access the mass storage device.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to control ~~controls~~ storage and manipulation of ~~said the~~ the program guide data so that the size of the physical memory is configured based on a temporal window in ~~said the~~ physical memory that encompasses most common usage scenarios employing the program guide data.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the physical memory comprises a random access memory (RAM).

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the mass storage device comprises a hard disk.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 12~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the communications channel is configured as one of a satellite communications channel, a cable communications channel, a digital video broadcasting (DVB) communications channel and a terrestrial broadcast communications channel.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 9~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the program guide application is configured to display ~~said the~~ the program guide data on a display device coupled to ~~said the~~ the set top box in a tabular form including program times, program channels and program identifications.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said the program identifications include information regarding at least one of actors, ratings, description of programs, cost for pay per view, a frequency of said the communications channel, a video channel within said the frequency, and an audio channel within said the frequency.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for organizing data for use by an application, comprising:

providing a set top box, including a physical memory and a mass storage device which are operatively coupled to a processor therein for implementing said the application;

configuring said the physical memory and said the mass storage device to store said the data;

controlling storage and manipulation of said the data between said the physical memory and said the mass storage device so that the data to be used by said the application is available for immediate access from said the physical memory;

initiating at least one process to control ~~controlling~~ storage and manipulation of said the data between said the physical memory and said the mass storage device so that the data is temporally sorted and stored by comparison of a current time to a time associated with the data, into data that is most likely to be immediately accessed for an application, and data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future, said the data that is most likely to be immediately accessed being stored in said the physical memory, said the data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future being stored in said the mass storage device; and

suspending operation of the at least one process when the application accesses the data stored in the physical memory.

~~controlling storage and manipulation of said data so that necessary or relevant portions of said data may be accessed as the processor detects a user event likely to result in a cache miss, or when cache miss is not predicted.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein initiating at least one process further comprises initiating a first said processor directs at least one low-priority background process to add data from the mass storage device to said the physical memory so as to maintain a sufficient amount of data to be accessed for the application.

18. (Currently Amended) The system method of claim 17, wherein initiating at least one process further comprises initiating a second said processor directs another low-priority background process to remove data from said the mass storage device and said the physical memory so as to ensure that the data used by said the application can be accessed from said the physical memory without delay.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising configuring wherein said the physical memory is to be subject to accesses by the processor to the data contained therein to run said the application without having to access the mass storage device.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the processor is configured to control ~~controls~~ storage and manipulation of ~~said the~~ data so that the size of the physical memory is configured based on a temporal window in ~~said the~~ physical memory that encompasses most common usage scenarios employing the data.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~said the~~ data comprises program guide data for ~~said the~~ application comprising a program guide for a plurality of program sources.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~said the~~ physical memory comprises a random access memory (RAM).

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~said the~~ mass storage device comprises a hard disk.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 24~~ claim 16, further comprising a communications channel configured to transmit ~~said program guide~~ the data to ~~said the~~ set top box.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein ~~said the~~ communications channel is configured as one of a satellite communications channel, a cable communications channel, a digital video broadcasting (DVB) communications channel and a terrestrial broadcast communications channel.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said the program guide is configured to display said the program guide data on a device coupled to said the set top box in a tabular form including program times, program channels and program identifications.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said the program identifications include information regarding at least one of actors, ratings, description of programs, cost for pay per view, a frequency of said the communications channel, a video channel within said the frequency, and an audio channel within said the frequency.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for organizing data for use by an application, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps recited in any one of ~~claims 16-19 or 21-30~~ claims 16-18, 21, 22, or 24-30.

32. (Currently Amended) A system for efficient storage of data for use by an application, comprising:

a set top box, including,

a physical memory,

a mass storage device, and

a processor configured to direct ~~directing~~ at least two low-priority background ~~process~~ processes, one to add data from the mass storage device to ~~said the~~ physical memory, the other to remove data from ~~said the~~ mass storage device and ~~said the~~ physical memory, so as to ensure that the data used by ~~said the~~ application can be accessed from ~~said the~~ physical memory without delay wherein the processor directs that the data be temporally sorted and stored by comparison of a current time to a time associated with the data, into data that is most likely to be immediately accessed for an application, and data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future, ~~said the~~ data that is most likely to be immediately accessed being stored in ~~said the~~ physical memory, ~~said the~~ data that is most likely to be accessed in the more distant future being stored in ~~said the~~ mass storage device; and

wherein the application is configured to cause the processor to suspend operation of the at least two low-priority processes when the application accesses the data stored in the physical memory.

~~wherein the processor controls storage and manipulation of said data so that necessary or relevant parts of said data may be accessed as the processor detects a user event likely to result in a cache miss, or when cache miss is not predicted.~~